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Press Item for the DCI

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ADD 1 LAOS, WASHINGTON (UPI-18)

SEN. CLIFFORD P. CASE, R-N.J., SAID TODAY THE UNITED STATES IS INVOLVED IN A WAR IN LAOS AND HE FEELS CONGRESS SHOULD BE CONSULTED. CASE, A MEMBER OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, SAID HE WAS AS SURPRISED AS OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE WHEN SECRETARY OF STATE WILLIAM P. ROGERS INDIRECTLY CONCEDED THURSDAY THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS FINANCED, ARMED AND TRAINED A CLANDESTINE ARMY OF 36,000 GUERRILLAS IN LAOS FOR SEVERAL YEARS.

"I WAS SURPRISED WHEN EVEN (SEN. STUART) SYMINGTON DIDN'T KNOW BECAUSE HE HAS BEEN CLOSEST TO THIS THING," CASE TOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE. "I THINK THE ONLY ONE WHO MIGHT HAVE KNOWN WAS SENATOR (RICHARD) RUSSELL AND HE DOESN'T TALK."

CASE SAID HE FELT THE SITUATION WAS SERIOUS AND REPRESENTED "A GENERAL CONFUSION IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH BETWEEN THOSE SITUATIONS NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT COVERT OPERATIONS AND THOSE NEEDS REQUIRING CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT."

SEN. J. WILLIAM FULBRIGHT, D-ARK., ESTIMATED \$150 MILLION A YEAR WAS GOING INTO LAOS, BUT IT APPARENTLY HAS BEEN HIDDEN IN SEVERAL SEPARATE APPROPRIATIONS MEASURES, SOME OF WHICH GO TO THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.

"THIS IS WAR, IN MY OPINION, AND CONGRESS SHOULD BE INVOLVED," CASE SAID. "I OBJECT TO IT AND I WILL TELL THE ADMINISTRATION, BUT IT ISN'T JUST THIS ADMINISTRATION. IT HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR SEVERAL ADMINISTRATIONS."

10/30--GE1202P